

CFIB economist Laure-Anne Bomal says staffing shortages led to some employers working more hours, reducing their hours of operation and refusing services or contracts.

Bomal says while the number doesn't indicate the Canadian economy lost billions of dollars, it is still a significant amount of revenue that small businesses could have benefitted from.

The report says small businesses in the construction sector saw the biggest loss in potential business opportunities, estimated to top \$9.6 billion last year, followed by the retail sector losing out on an estimated \$3.8 billion and social services with a \$3.3 billion loss.

Regionally, small businesses in Ontario posted the highest potential revenue opportunity losses in 2022, estimated at \$16 billion, followed by Quebec and Alberta.

CFIB offered solutions in its report including work-integrated learning in high school for youth, labour mobility of core workers aged 24-64 and tax credits for career extensions among other policy suggestions.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Nov. 29, 2023.

CFIB: Manitoba small businesses faced with diminishing inventories and lost sales due to MGEU strike

Winnipeg, August 15, 2023 – Over half (53%) of Manitoba small businesses in the hospitality industry are running out of products as a result of the ongoing Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union's (MGEUs) selective strike, according to survey results from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

Half of small businesses in the province report they've had to temporarily reduce their service offerings and more than a third (37%) indicate they've lost revenues due to the strike.

With no resolution in sight, CFIB has written a letter to the Honourable Andrew Smith, Minister Responsible for the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries (MBLL) Corporation, calling on the Manitoba government to prioritize ending the strike and provide some relief by offering wholesale prices on alcohol to restaurants and other licensed food service ventures.

“At a time when Manitoba small businesses are battling to cope with inflation, ongoing labour shortages, debt, and rising interest rates their struggles are being exacerbated by the supply disruptions caused by this strike,” said Brianna Solberg, CFIB provincial affairs director. “We’re hearing from members who are left with little to no inventory - forcing them to turn away customers. Some fear even if the strike ends soon, it will be a while before things are back to normal because of the backlog.”

When asked how long their business could survive without government action if the current situation were to continue, an alarming 14 per cent of businesses in the hospitality sector said they would be forced to close in less than two weeks. An additional 14 per cent of businesses indicated they would survive less than a month.

Unless the parties are able to negotiate a deal immediately through collective bargaining, two thirds of Manitoba small business owners support the Manitoba government enacting back-to-work legislation so that businesses are not unfairly punished by circumstances outside of their control.

“Enough is enough. Small businesses cannot continually bear the brunt of service and supply chain disruptions. To prevent more business closures and layoffs it is becoming increasingly urgent for this labour dispute to be resolved,” concluded Solberg.

Rising crime weighs heavy on Manitoba small business owners

Nearly half (45%) say it is a serious concern for their business

Winnipeg, November 1, 2023 – A new report from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) found more than half (54%) of Manitoba small businesses have been directly or indirectly impacted by crime. [Crime & Safety in Western Canada: The Small Business Perspective](#), brings attention to the impacts crime and community safety are having on small businesses across the province.

“The public does not have to look far to see that crime and safety is a problem in our communities and for businesses. We recognize that these are complex issues without simple solutions, but it is important to highlight the toll these issues are having on our local businesses,” said SeoRhin Yoo, Policy Analyst at CFIB.

Manitoba small businesses report they are struggling to manage property damage, theft, waste and litter, loitering, and public intoxication. Many (78%) are also worried about the safety of their customers and employees.

Small businesses are already implementing measures to better protect their business, customers, and employees, including spending more money on security, adjusting operations, and providing additional safety training for staff. Some report having to pay more to attract and retain employees, further contributing to labour shortage challenges.

To address crime and safety challenges, CFIB provides the following recommendations:

- Address underlying issues contributing to crime and safety.
- Improve resources available to small businesses (i.e. funding, response strategies)
- Use collaborative approach.
- Improve safety in commercial areas and public spaces.
- Develop improved approach to recidivism.

“Many small business owners are expected to be their own accountant, HR department, and marketing team. They did not anticipate also having to work as security, social worker, emergency medical provider,” concluded Yoo. “A collaborative approach is needed by all governments, stakeholders, and law enforcement to address these very real challenges.”

Business owners can contact CFIB’s [business resources](#) for additional support to manage their community crime and safety concerns.

